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# HIS MAJESTIES

L A T E

# LETTER

I N

## Vindication of Himself;

Dated at *St. Germans en Laye*, the Fourteenth of this Instant *January*, 1688.

J A M E S R.

906-1157,8

**M**Y LORDS; When We saw that it was no longer safe for Us to remain within Our Kingdom of *England*, and that thereupon We had taken Our resolutions to withdraw for some time; We left to be communicated to you and to all Our Subjects, the Reasons of Our withdrawing: *a* And were likewise resolved at the same time to leave such Orders behind Us to you of Our Privy-Council, as might best suit with the present state of Affairs: But that being altogether unsafe for Us at that time; *b* We now think fit to let you know, that though it has been Our constant care since Our first Accession to the Crown, to Govern Our People with that Justice and Moderation, as to give, if possible, *c* no occasion of Complaint; yet more particularly upon the late Invasion, *d* seeing how the Design was laid; and fearing that Our People, who could not be destroy'd but by themselves might by little imaginary Grievances, be cheated into a certain ruine: To prevent so great Mischief, and to take away not only all just Cause; but even Presumption

Discontent; We freely, and of Our own accord redressed all those Things that were set forth as the Causes of that Invasion: And that We might be informed by the Council and Advice of Our Subjects themselves, which way We might give them a further and a full satisfaction; e We resolved to meet them in a Free Parliament; And in order to it, We first laid the foundation of such a Free Parliament, in restoring the City of *London* and the rest of the Corporations to their ancient Charters and Privileges; and afterwards actually appointed the Writs to be issued out for the Parliaments Meeting on the 15th. of *January*; f But the Prince of *Orange* seeing all the Ends of his Declaration answered, the People beginning to be undeceived, and returning a pace to their ancient Duty and Allegiance; and well fore-seeing that if the Parliament should meet at the time appointed, such a Settlement in all probability would be made, both in Church and State, as would totally defeat his ambitious and unjust Designs, resolved by all means possible to prevent the Meeting of the Parliament: g And to do this the most effectual way, he thought fit to lay a restraint on Our Royal Person; for as it were absurd to call that a Free Parliament, where there is any Force on either of the Houses, so much less can that Parliament be said to act freely where the Sovereign, by whose Authority they Meet and Sit, and from whose Royal Assent all their Acts receive their Life and Sanction, is under actual Confinement. The hurrying of Us under a Guard from Our City of *London*, h whose returning Loyalty We could no longer Trust, and the other Indignities We suffered in the Person of the Earl of *Faversham* when sent to him by Us; and in that barbarous Confinement of Our own Person, We shall not here repeat, because they are, We doubt not by this time, very well known; and may, We hope, if enough considered and reflected upon; together with his other Violations & Breaches of the Laws and Liberties of *England*, which by this Invasion he pretended to restore, be sufficient to open the Eyes of all Our Subjects, and let them plainly see what every one of them may expect, and what Treatment they shall find from him, if at any time it may serve his purpose, from whose hands a Sovereign Prince, an Uncle, and a Father could meet with no better Entertainment. i However the Cause of these Indignities, and the just apprehension of further Attempts against Our Person by them who already endeavoured to murder Our Reputation by Infamous Calumnies (as if We had been capable of a supposed Prince of *Wales*) which was incomparably more Injurious, then the Destroying of Our Person it Self; together with a serious reflection on a Saying of Our Royal Father of Blessed Memory, when He was in the like Circumstances, *That there is little distance between the Prisons and the Graves of Princes* (which afterwards proved too true in His Case) could not but persuade Us to make use of that which the Law of Nature gives to the meanest of Our Subjects, of freeing Our selves by all means possible from that unjust Confinement and Restraint. k And this We did not more for the Security of Our own Person, than that thereby We might be in a better Capacity of transacting and providing for every thing that may Contribute to the Peace and Settlement of Our Kingdoms: For as on the one hand, no change of Fortune shall ever make Us forget Our selves, so far as to Condescend to any thing, unbecoming that High and Royal Station, in which God Almighty by Right of Succession has placed Us: l So on the other hand, neither the Provocation or Ingratitude of Our own Subjects, nor any other Consideration whatsoever, shall ever prevail with Us to make the

the least step contrary to the True Interest of the English Nation; which We ever did, and ever must look upon as Our own. OUR WILL and Pleasure therefore is, That you of Our Privy-Council, take the most effectual Care to make these Our Gracious Intercessions known to the Lords Spiritual & Temporal in & about Our Cities of London and Westminster, to the Lord Mayor and Commons of Our City of London, and to all Our Subjects in general; and to assure them, that We desire nothing more, than to return and hold a Free Parliament, wherein We may have the best opportunity of Undeceiving Our People, and shewing the Sincerity of those Protestations We have often made of the preserving the Liberties and Properties of Our Subjects and the Protestant Religion; more especially the Church of England as by Law Establish'd, with such Indulgence for those that Dissent from Her, as We have always thought Our selves in Justice and Care of the general Welfare of Our People, bound to procure for them.

And in the mean-time You of Our Privy-Council (who can judge better by being upon the place) are to send Us your Advice, what is fit to be done by Us towards Our Returning and the Accomplishing those Good Ends. And We do require you in Our Name, and by Our Authority, to Endeavour to Suppress all Tumults and Disorders, that the Nation in general, and every one of Our Subjects in particular, may not receive the least prejudice from the present Distractions that is possible. So not doubting of your Dutiful Obedience to these Our Royal Commands, We bid you Heartily Farewel. Given at St. Germans en Lays the 4. of January 1683. And of Our Reign the Fourth Year.

By His Majesties Command,  
MELFORT.

Directed thus to the Lords, and Others of Our Privy-Council of Our Kingdom of England.

## Remarques,

THIS Paper has been industriously and privately dispersed about the City, bearing the Title of his Majesties Letter, being the Second (said to be by the Romanists) writ since his Desertion, to the Lords of the Privy Council; and because we have yet a veneration left for the Father of our Royal Princesses, we will forbear any severity in our Remarques, as may seem designedly to aggravate those misfortunes his Majesty may lie under, though we cannot altogether be silent in a matter that leaves us all under the heavy imputation of the worst of Criminals: a His Majesty is pleased in the beginning of his Letter to repeat the Reasons he gave in his first departure from Rochester, which because they are fully answered in another Paper, I shall here pass over for being indeed writ in a hurry, and under apprehensions of danger, it is possible his material and pertinent objections and reasons might have been slipped over; but being now more at leisure, he has been pleased to let us know what we have been hitherto unfortunately ignorant of, and which our hardened infidelity, till we have more material demonstration than Words, will not readily let us assent to how nice and cautious his Majesty has been of giving his People any just cause of complaint, may be guessed from this, that he has been pleased to trample upon, and in effect annul more Laws

and Privileges in the four years of his Reign, shews his Majesty has been deceived in his than his Predecessors for fourscore years has News: h How instrumental the Prince has made for our preservation: c Indeed as he been in defaming his Majesty, especially in the is willing to suggest he made an offer of restora- matter of the P. of Wales, all the Kingdom tion and redress, but we may presume to be- can judge, and we all could wish his Maje- lieve he mistrusted his Game when saw the sties Reputation may be proved innocent and Trump turn'd up, and so like a wary Gam- clear from so black a Design: However we ster was willing to change his Cards, or else wish that his Majesty had been pleased to have refer himself to the good hap of another Deal: left the Infant among us, which after the proof of his Birth of the Queen had been a great d His Majesty is pleased to tell us he had a de- Security of his Title to the Crown. i As his sire to have all grievances redress'd by a free Majesty has received many signal proofs of our Parliament, which he resolved speedily to call, love and duty, so in this Retirement of his, he but as this could not suit with the safety and has been pleased to shew us the first instance of wishes of some corrupt Ministers about him, so his care of our Safety, k and as his Majesty be was readily persuaded to quit those intenti- never gave us reason to suspect the intension of ons; and though some of the Writs were issued of his promises, never to molest or injure the out for their Sitting, yet he shewed us the sin- peace and interest of his Kingdom of England, cerity of his meaning by his sudden withdraw- so we cannot but in gratitude wish his Majesty ing: e That the Prince meant nothing else by all the Peace and Quiet that his pious Zeal in- his coming, than the re-settling the shaken Foun- clines him to. l His Majesty in his gracious dations of our Laws and Religion, by an open Condescensions is pleased again to promise us the and free Convention of the States, is plain, preservation of our Laws and Liberties, and from his great moderation since their Sitting, especially the security of the Protestant Reli- and we may justly say, he has been far more gion, but because we cannot invent other means modest in all his demands, than we have been to assure us of the performance of this than his grateful in the readiness of our Grants. f I Word, the repeated breach of which he has not know not how we can believe his Majesty was as yet vouchsafed to acknowledge, we can ever under restraint since his so easie Desertion hardly be sure of his Majesties meaning, and seems to contradict the Assertion: g That the may instead of finding redress of our grievances, City or Country had changed their resolution, be apprehended as Slanderers, and punished we cannot apprehend, and their constant ad- verting to their first Addresses to the Prince, as Criminals.

F I N I S.

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